Night-time Exercises by Air Force fighters

3414. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN :

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Air Force fighters carry out night-time exercises to enable them to practice and train for night-time combat;

(b) if yes, the details thereof;

(c) whether such exercises are carried out away from towns and cities ;

(d) whether the Air Force pilots are equipped with night vision; and

(e) if yes, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Various air defence and ground attack exercises are carried out using fighters, helicopters and transport aircraft.

(c) Yes, all exercises are carried out awary from towns and cities.

(d) and (e) Yes; certain fleets have been fitted with Night Vision Goggles (NVG).

Use of B-4 defence lands for public purposes

3415. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether use of B-4 defence lands had been permitted so far by defence cantonment authorities in India for public purposes;

(b) if so, details thereof with regard to B-4 defence lands allotted so far in the past for public purposes;

(c) if so, will Government allot several defence B-4 vacant lands surrounded by massive civilian population for public purposes; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Permissions have been granted in the past for temporary use/licensing of B-4 defence lands for public